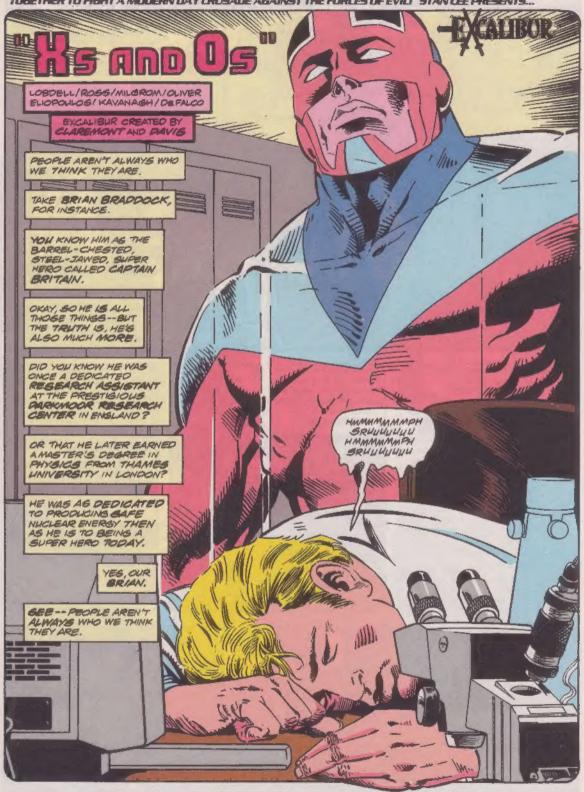


THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRÄGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MIDDERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVILL STAN LIE PRESENTS...



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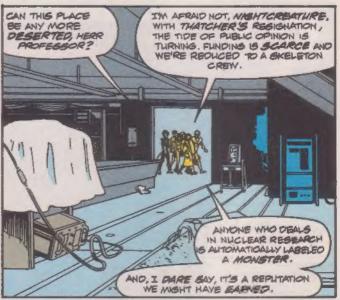






























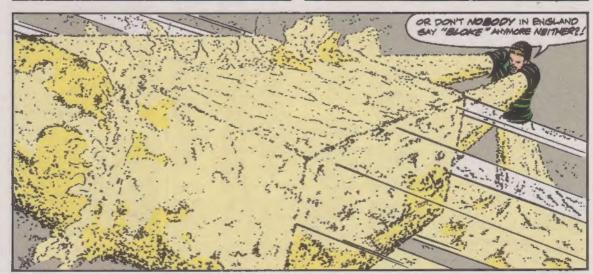








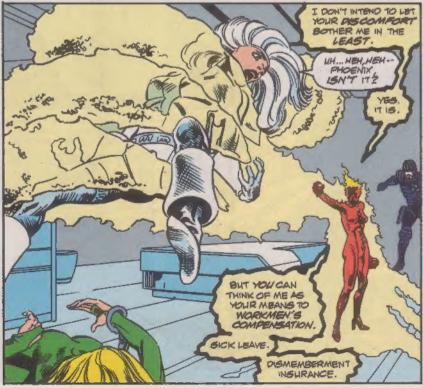












I'M SURE "BATTLING GELESTIAL AVATARS" WAS NOT IN MY JOB DESCRIBTION.



































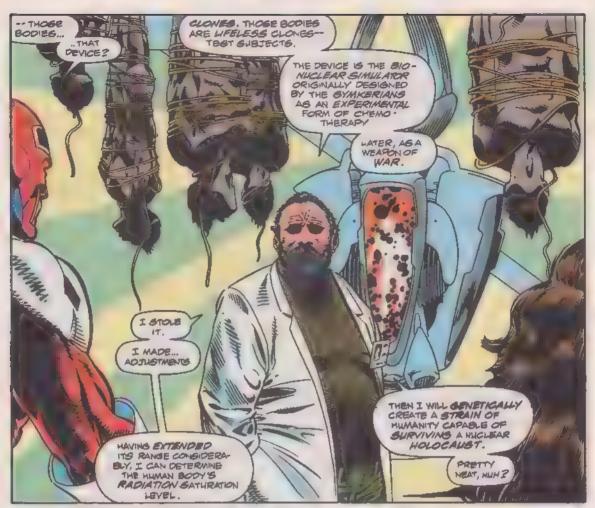










































STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Well, another year has rolled around and Dr. Doom still hasn't conquered the world. Wolverine hasn't gotten any gentier and Irving Forbush is still a klutz! In other words, all is well among the majestic minions of Marveldom!

Still, we can't let this fateful date come and go without zeroing in on some vitally important New Year's resolutions. Since I'm the guy writing this sanguine snippet of ponderous prose it looks like the resolutions were about to consider will be my very own!

First of all, I hereby resolve to stop huckstering our big new production for 1991, "The Marvel World of Tomorrow!" You've heard enough about it! I won't even tell you that we're about to change its titanic title. Nor will I bombastically breathe a word about the fact that you'll learn the new name in our very next Soapbox! No sir, no more exasperating exploitation of the magnificently meritonous 'Marvel World of Tomorrow" from now on!

Next, I valiantly yow to put a damper on my obnoxious overuse of agonizing alliteration! From now on, I'm gonna write as nicely, normally and naturally as everyone else! If I don't, may I be callously condemned to spend a miserable month wretchedly reading nothing but the melancholy mags of our daringly defiant and dismayingly Distinguished Competition!

Finally, I hereby resolve to write no Scapbox unless its theme is mightily meaningful and fraught with passionate profundity. No more shall any bantenno words of mine serve to trivialize the

philosophical impact of our weighty Marvel tomes! Henceforth, each phrase I write shall be studded with sagacity, garnished with greatness, loaded with learning and imbued with intellectualism! I mean, hey, a guys gotta keep up with his rollickin readers!

So here's wishing you the best of ites gifts for 1991, where the excitement and surprises we have in store for you will boggle your mind! But while you're being boggled, remember -it's time to take a Hulk to lea to see what color his skin will

Excession

BARO BAR

t's January again - wait a minute wasn't it January tast month? Well, it was supposed to be! Heh heh we seem to have gotten a little mixed up with our Bullpen Bulletins pages. Well, no use crying over spilled ink. Let's start this new year off right, what say we begin it with January?

January, as any Marveiold knows, is the month of making promises you have no intention of keeping for the purpose of atoning for your holiday excesses. So let's see what the Mighty Marvel freelancers have resolved for the coming year

X-MEN super-scribe Chris Claremont resolved to become "a lean, mean, writing machine. with hair." (Chris noted that this resolution falls under the heading of "fantasy," but then acknowledged that since he writes mutants, anything is possible!)

Quasi-legendary pencil-pusher John Buscena, soon to make his triumphant return to THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN said his goat is "to try to get more money from Marvel!"

Ultra-personable THOR penciler Ron Frenz said his ambition "is the same as every treelancer, to get all my projects on schedule, I want to get credit as the first one to say that." (Among those projects the SPIDER MAN CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN ADVENTURE book, which was scripted

by Peter David several years back)
The demi-diabolical Dan Chichester who writes for HELLRAISER and SHIELD, said he intends "to solve that da'n puzzle box Marcus McLaurin gave me last Christmasi"

Hotshot artist Tom Morgan has a simple goal "To try to work on books that have an audience! I also want to improve my storytelling-I don't want to have an oldfashioned style. I also want to inform the fans of my upcoming work, such as my pencil and ink job in WHAT IE . . #24 ("What if Wolvenne Became Lord of the Vampires?"), and my upcoming EX-CALIBUR special with Michael Higgins '

CONAN THE BARBARIAN neo-artist Gary Hartle boasted, "I can guarantee that there will be no Punisher, Ghost Rider or Wolverine team-ups in CONANI*

Jim Starlin, poly-prolific writer of the



SILVER SURFER as well as the upcoming INFINITY GAUNTLET Limited Series said "I haven't done a New Year's Resolution in years. I'm perfect as Lami'

Mark Evanier, the multitacular scribe of GROO and HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS. promised, "I'm going to resolve to avoid shameless plugs for HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS in the pages of GROO Instead I'll do it on the Bullpen Page

where it belongs "
DAREDEVIL's penciler without fear. Lee Weeks, said his resolution for the new year is "to not have any New Year's Resolutions)"

Ultra-hot penciler Jim Lee has an admirable goal. "I want to refine my craft and hone my abilities to a higher plateau, OR to work on more commercial books, like the new X-MEN #1 I'm doing with Chris Claremont!"

Superstar inker Terry Austin said, "I resolve that next year, when I receive that box of home-baked Christmas cookies from Doctor Doom. I'll have them checked

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out by the bomb squad before I take the first bite?

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN'S amazing writer-man David Michelinie said, "I resolve to stop using the health problems of my imaginary friend, Stewart as an excuse for missing my deadlines

Penciler/inker extraordinaire Al Milgrom has an unusual goal. Said Al, "I resolve to finish everything that Dariny Fingeroth has written that I am drawing." (That in-cludes the DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN Limited Series, and an eighty-page FANTASTIC FOUR Graphic Novel called

Fathers and Sons ")
And CAPTAIN AMERICA colorist supreme Steve Buccellato's resolution is to become Rob Liefeld's first favorite colorist. I'm really shootin' for it

As for your humble Bullpen Buildin Page Assemblers, our only resolution is this, to get these fershingginer things back on track again! See you next month!

(Let's see...next month would be March, right?)

































6 MARVEL COMICS GROUP 387 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH KELLY CORVESE

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Hey Terry, Chris Wozniak's cover for EXCALIBUR #29 was the most impressive Marvel cover I've seen so far this year. And that includes Todd McFarlane's cover for SPIDER-MAN #1. Also-killer page layouts!

Who contributed the cover hues?

Uncle Elvis 110-7 Medical Court Clarksville, TN 37043

Marvel's marvelous chief cover colorist, George Roussos, colored the cover, Uncle Elvis. We're glad you liked it! (Bet-ter than Todd's SPIDER-MAN . . . wow!)

Dear Sword Strokes.

In Issue #29, page 2, Nightcrawler teleports Inside the ship safety. He has refrained from teleporting somewhere he has not been before because he could be badly hurt. is this a mistake or what? I'll tell you-NO, because Marvel doesn't make mistakes. The answer is that Phoenix scanned the minds of the ship's passengers and got the ship's Interior layout. She then gave the information to Kurt via telepathic rapport.

So, do I get a No-Prize?

Steve Spivey HC-83 Box 1098 Barbourville, KY 40906

As you said, Steve, Marvel doesn't make mistakes! And this rational explanation definitely deserves a No-Prize. (We couldn't have done better ourselves!) Remember, No-Prizes are now awarded not only for explaining why a lapse on our part isn't realty a lapse, but also for general good deeds (something like donating a bunch of comics to a children's hospital). Keep us informed!

Dear EXCALIBUR Dudes,

Congrets on a real good story in ish #29. First of all, I'd like to say that EXCALIBUR is one of the best comics since THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, which I also collect. But let me tell you of a few complaints, although I'm sure you've heard enough of 'em.

1. Give Nightcrawler his original teleport-

Ing capabilities, please.

2. Give Captain Britain his old helmet with the squares on the forehead instead of

the ugly black stripes, please.

3. Get Excalibur more involved with the rest of the mutant world, like the X-Men and the New Mutants-two comics I also col-

4. Get Alan Davis back please. No offense to your other artists who have done previous issues, but nobody knows a team better than it's creators... Davis and Claremonti

One last thing ... have Excalibur fight vil-lains with bigger reputations like...oh, Dr. Doom or Magneto or some other bad guy groups like Freedom Force-ohl-they're supposed to be good guys working for the

U.S. government.

Tom Cunningham 1213 Lake Village Blvd. Shdell, LA 70481

Nighterawier was seriously injured, Torn, and he is slowly recovering and getting better at teleporting. He still has difficulty teleporting with someone else, teleporting multiple times, or going up and against gravity. Watch for him to continue to get stronger in the future! Speaking of Dr. Doom-how about next issue!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I just wanted to tell you to keep up the great work you're doing on my very favorite comic, EXCALIBUR! I started reading it occasionally when it first came out and, being a girl of fifteen at the time, that was pretty unusual (reading comics, that is). I started reading EXCALIBUR more frequently this year and I think it's the BEST!!!

My boyfriend got me interested in the comic even before it came out. He told me ! looked like Kitty Pryde. I, of course, had to know who she was. So, when the first issue of EXCALIBUR came out, he bought it and showed me the girl by whose name he called me. (By this time, quite a few of my friends called me Shadowcat.) I noticed the resemblance and immediately fell in love with EXCALIBUR.

Thanks for all the great issues and keep them coming! You now have a faithful reader, thanks to my boyfriend and your great writing.

Until Rachel looks better than Kitty, Make

Mine MARVELIII

Michele "Shadowcat" Chocey 315 W. Van Buren Trenton, IL 62293

Thanks for saying such nice things, Michele (or would you prefer "Shadow-cat"?). We don't hear from our female readers as often as we'd like. Andyou're not Kitty's only fan! Read on!

Say guys,

I wonder, are you aware:

-that in Kitty Pryde, you have a character with whom probably a substantial majority of your male readership would fall hopelessly, pantingly in love if only she really basicod?

-and that this is because you have deliberately, craftily developed her from her beginnings as a fairty plain-looking, precocious adolescent girl from a typical suburban Jewish background, Into a perfect combination of innocence and street-smarts, intelligence and (especially when drawn by Alan Davis) looks, humility and seductiveness?

and that as a further consequence, the above mentioned readers are aghast at the illogic and Implausibility of having Alistair Stewart, an otherwise likeable and easy-toidentify-with guy, overlook Kitty in favor of the comparatively lesser charms of Rachel Summers?

-and that despite-or rather, because of-their frustration with this situation, you have all of these readers trapped like fish on a book?

... Yeah, I suspect you probably are.

Chris J. Miller 1907 E. 120th St. Cleveland, OH 44106 Dear EXCALIBUR Crew,

On behalf of our buddy, Lockheed, I demand that his face be shown at the top lefthand corner of the front cover with the rest of the team. After all, he's been with them longer than Widget, and Widget has his own spoti

I have a feeling that I am not the only one who feels our purple friend has been left out too long, and we won't stand for it any

> Michael Reed Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

No, Michael, you're not the only one who feels this way; Lockheed is one very popular purple dragon! He is, officially, Kitty's pet and a supporting character. Unfortunately, there's just no more room left in the corner box?

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(signed) Diane Pävers — Asst. VP Subscriptions